

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 17529 210722Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05
CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04
SIL-01 SSM-03 PM-04 DODE-00 /085 W
----- 076694 /20

R 201355Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9886
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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AMCON PORT SAID SENDS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB EG PINT PINR
SUBJECT: REPORTED SUEZ CANAL PILOT SLOWDOWN/STRIKE

REF A) CAIRO 16713 B) CAIRO 16827

1. MARITIME TRANSPORT UNION PRESIDENT TABET EL-SEFARY'S DENIAL NOT WITHSTANDING, THE BELIEF PERSISTS IN PORT SAID SHIPPING COMMUNITY THAT CANAL PILOTS ARE ENGAGED IN WORK SLOWDOWN THAT HAS RESULTED IN 24-48 HOUR DELAY FOR VESSELS AWAITING PLACE IN CONVOY. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SHIP AGENT, PROBLEM MOST NOTICABLE AT SUEZ, WHERE DELAYS OF UP TO THREE DAYS ARE COMMON.

2. LOCAL SOURCES ATTRIBUTE PILOT DISCONTENT TO QUESTION OF UNCOMPENSATED OVERTIME, WHICH INCREASED MARKEDLY WITH BAD WEATHER WHICH CAUSED CLOSURE OF CANAL FOR 24 HOUR PERIOD IN NOVEMBER. PRESENT SALARY ARRANGEMENT GIVES PILOTS 300 LE BSE SALARY, PLUS BONUS FOR EACH VESSEL PILOTED WHICH CAN GO AS HIGH AS 25-30 LE. THERE IS
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NO PROVISION FOR PAYING OVERTIME.

3. IF PILOTS ARE INDEED ENGAGED IN SOME SORT OF SLOW-DOWN, CAN UNDERSTAND EVEN UNION PRESIDENT'S RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS MATTER OPENLY. AT LAST IN CANAL REGION, GOE HAS MADE MUCH OF CANAL'S CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMY,

AND IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT ANY EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL WOULD
WILLINGLY ADMIT TO PROBLEM WITH ONE OF COUNTRY'S MAJOR
MONEY EARNERS. INFORMATION ON SLOWDOWN IN PORT SAID
COMES FROM SHIPPING AGENTS AND OWNER REPRESENTATIVES
WHO MUST LIVE WITH PROBLEM DELAYS GENERATE, AND WHO
VIEW PILOTS AS OVER PAID, OVER PAMPERED GROUP WITH
WHOM IT IS DIFFICULT TO SYMPATHIZE. SIGNED SURBER.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, CANALS, LABOR STRIKES
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Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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04 MAY 2006

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